

Montague's Theorem

Robinson's Q:

- $(\forall x) \sim Sx = 0.$
- $(\forall x)(\forall y)(Sx = Sy \rightarrow x = y)$
- $(\forall x)(x+0) = x.$
- $(\forall x)(\forall y)(x + Sy) = S(x + y).$
- $(\forall x)(x \cdot 0 = 0.$
- $(\forall x)(\forall y)(x \cdot Sy) = ((x \cdot y) + x)$
- $(\forall x)(x \leq 0 \leftrightarrow x = 0)$
- $(\forall x)(\forall y)(x \leq Sy \leftrightarrow (x \leq y \vee x = Sy)).$
- $(\forall x)(\forall y)(x \leq y \vee y \leq x).$

Q is much weaker than PA. For instance, it doesn't prove the commutative law of addition. Nevertheless, it is strong enough to prove the Self-reference Lemma.

Montague's Theorem. In the language obtained from the language of arithmetic by adding a new predicate "Nec" to represent necessity, there isn't any consistent set of sentences that:

- (i) contains the logical consequences of Q;
- (ii) contains all sentences of the form $(\text{Nec}([\ulcorner \varphi \rightarrow \psi \urcorner]) \rightarrow (\text{Nec}([\ulcorner \varphi \urcorner]) \rightarrow \text{Nec}([\ulcorner \psi \urcorner]))$;
- (iii) contains all sentences of the form $(\text{Nec}([\ulcorner \varphi \urcorner]) \rightarrow \varphi)$;
- (iv) contains $\text{Nec}([\ulcorner \varphi \urcorner])$ whenever it contains φ ; and
- (v) is closed under tautological consequence.

Proof: Suppose Γ is such a set. The Self-reference Lemma gives us a sentence v such that $(v \leftrightarrow \sim \text{Nec}([\ulcorner v \urcorner]))$ is a consequence of Q. Consequently the following are in Γ :

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| 1. | $(\sim \text{Nec}([\ulcorner v \urcorner]) \rightarrow v)$ | By (i) and (v) |
| 2. | $(\text{Nec}([\ulcorner v \urcorner]) \rightarrow v)$ | By (iii) |
| 3. | v | From 1 and 2 by (v) |
| 4. | $\text{Nec}([\ulcorner v \urcorner])$ | From 3 by (iv) |
| 5. | $(\text{Nec}([\ulcorner v \urcorner]) \rightarrow \sim v)$ | From (i) |
| 6. | $\sim v$ | From 4 and 5 by (v) |

Montague thought that any system of modal logic worth the name must include KT, so he concluded that treating necessity as a property of sentences expressed by a predicate "Nec" would lead inevitably to paradoxes. He concluded that, rather than express necessity by a predicate true of the necessary sentences, we should express necessity with a modal operator " \Box ."